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J-school news

Ex-CIA agent joins j-school

Frank Snépp, author of "Decent Interval" and the principle figure in the Supreme Court's "Snépp Decision," has joined the faculty of the University of Southern California's School of Journalism as a visiting professor.

Snépp, a former CIA agent, gained international attention in 1977 when the U.S. Justice Department sued him for breach of secrecy in publishing "Decent Interval," an expose of the CIA.

The Supreme Court decision of 1980 gave the government power to control the release of official information by present and past government employees.

Snépp was stripped of all profits from his book and enjoined from writing about anything he learned as a result of his CIA employment without obtaining official approval. He has since become the first American to have a screenplay cleared by the CIA. He is currently writing a book about his court case, which will have to be submitted to his former employer for screening.

At USC, Snépp is teaching courses on censorship and the media, First Amendment rights of the press, reporting and public affairs.